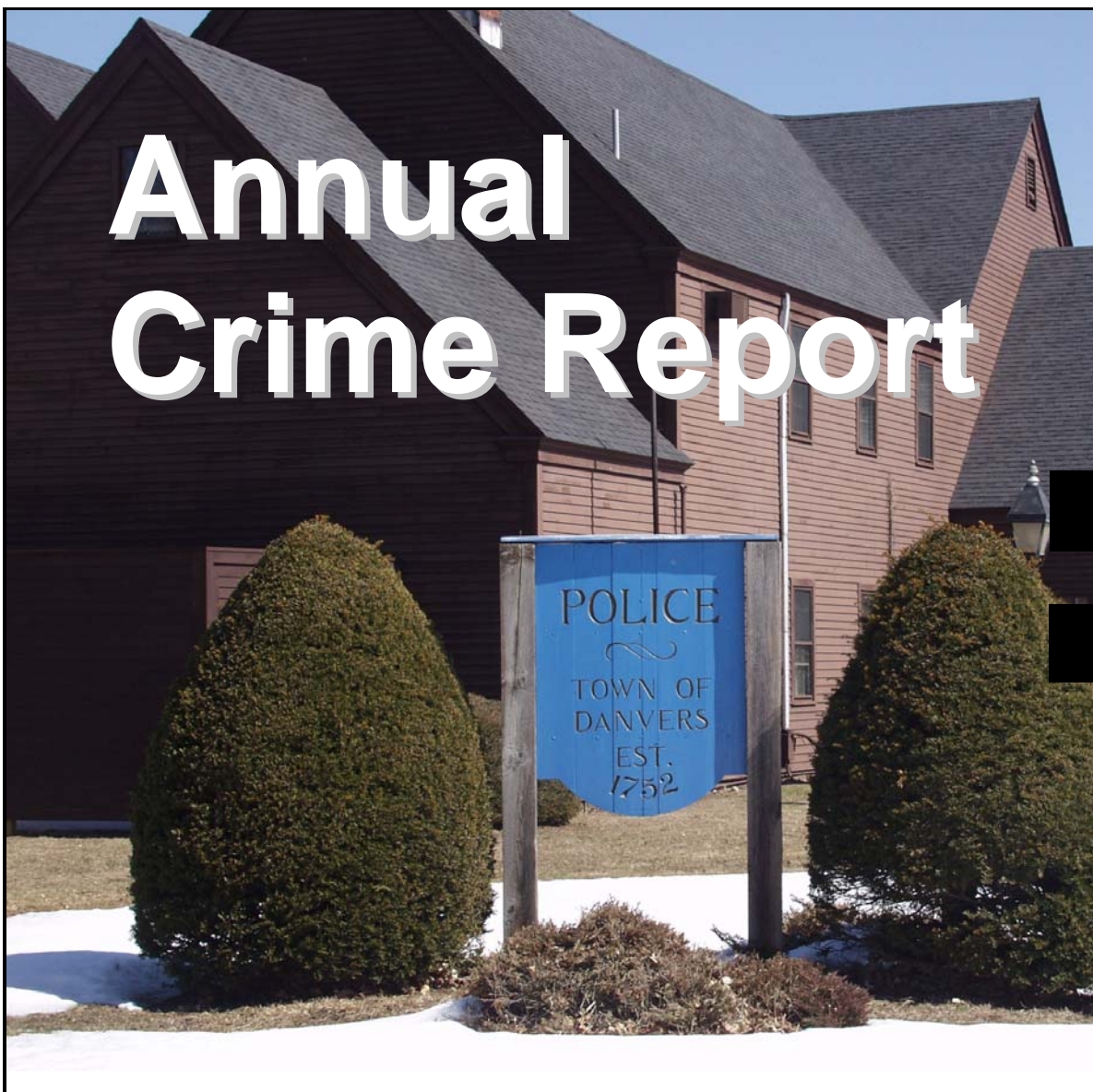


Annual Crime Report

2004

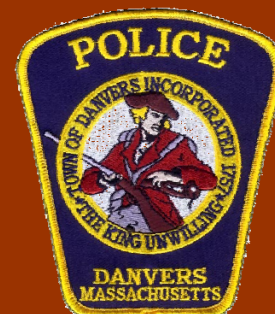
Wayne D. Marquis
Town Manager

Neil F. Ouellette
Chief of Police



DANVERS
POLICE DEPARTMENT

WORKING
TOGETHER
FOR A SAFE
COMMUNITY





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Danvers Police Department

2004 Annual Crime Report
Presented by the
Office of Public Safety Analysis

Christopher W. Bruce
Public Safety Analyst

Lt. David Woytovich
Services Division Commander

Neil F. Ouellette
Chief of Police

120 Ash Street • Danvers, MA 01923
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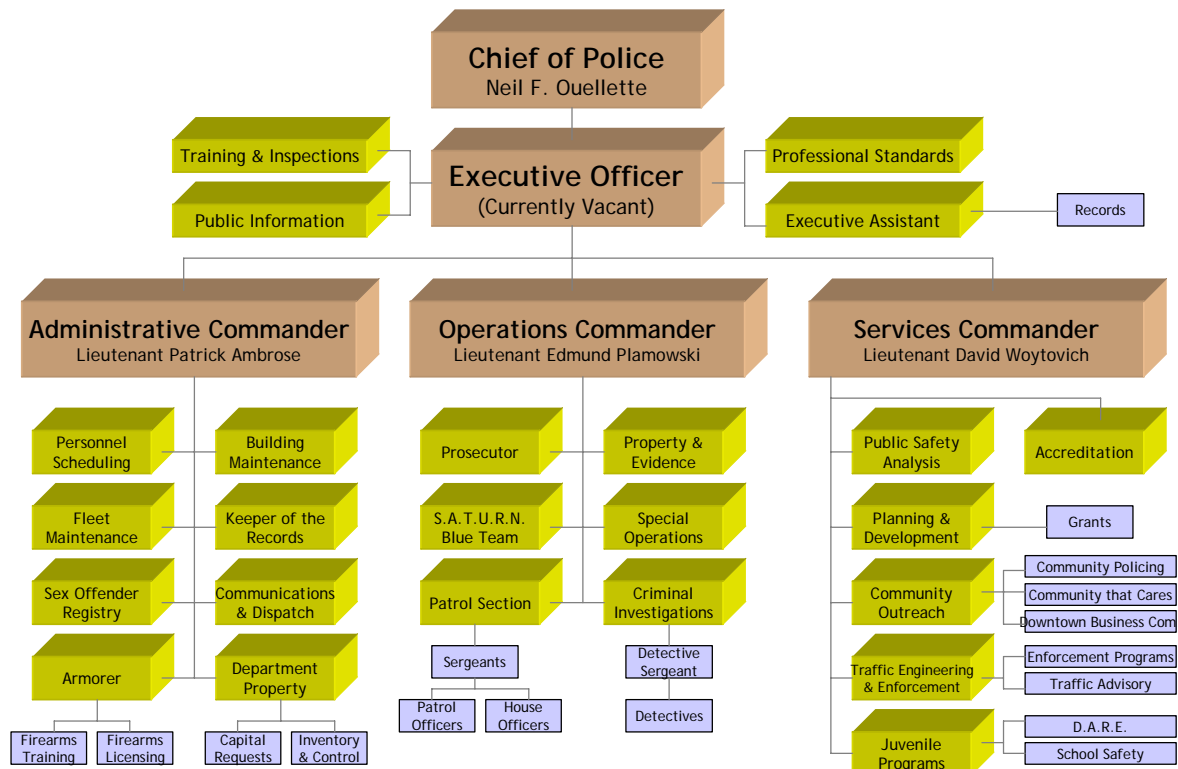
Danvers Police Department at a Glance

Organized: 1752
Population Served: 25,212
Sworn Officers: 46
Civilian Personnel: 13
Chief: Neil F. Ouellette
Headquarters: 120 Ash Street
Budget (FY05): \$4,425,871
Rank Structure: Chief
Captains (1)
Lieutenants (3)
Sergeants (8)
Officers (31) / Detectives (2)
Patrol Vehicles: 17
2004 Calls for Service: 18,521



The Danvers Police Department is one of less than 400 law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. Danvers became the first agency in Massachusetts to achieve accreditation (in 1986).

Danvers Police Department Organization Chart



A Message from the Chief

The Danvers Police Department is a community-service law enforcement organization, striving to maintain the safety of its citizens. At the same time, the department focuses on quality-of-life issues and the resolution of conflict within our community. The citizens of Danvers have been accustomed to a very open and honest police department that prides itself on customer-friendly service. The department is fortunate to have a community that holds the police department in high regard and supports its mission.

This *Annual Crime Report* is one of the services the police department offers to its community. The report contains detailed statistics, maps, and interpretation to help Danvers residents and businesses understand the nature of crime and disorder in their community, gauge risks, identify strategies for crime prevention, and evaluate the effectiveness of the police department.

Statistically, 2004 was a year of contradictions. Total calls for service were down from 2003, and about normal compared to the average, but the police made a record number of arrests (1,202). Most violent crimes (including rapes, assaults, and robberies) were down, but we saw a seven-year high in both residential and commercial burglary.

We believe that many of the increases—including those in burglaries and shoplifting—are due to a rise in OxyContin and heroin addiction in the region. We explore these issues in this report. As the Chief of Police, I look forward to combating this troubling trend through an educational and enforcement effort that will involve bringing the School Department, parents, and the community into collaboration with the police.

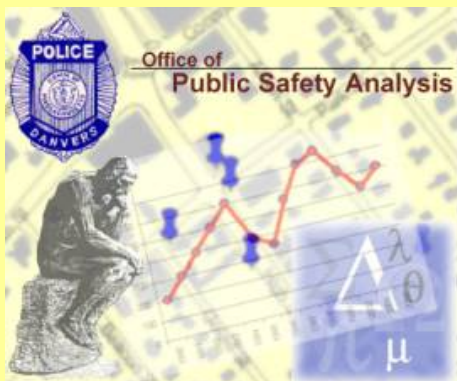
By reading this report, you are taking the first step towards this collaboration and others like it. We appreciate your interest; an informed community is a safer community.

Sincerely,

Neil F. Ouellette
Chief of Police



About Public Safety Analysis

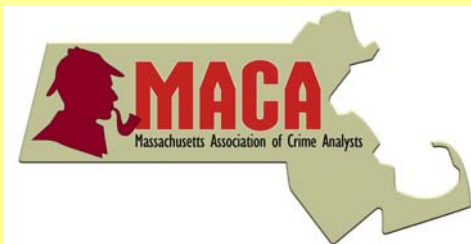


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<http://www.macrimeanalysts.com>



<http://www.iaca.net>

The Danvers Police Department's Office of Public Safety Analysis performs what, in many agencies, is simply called "Crime Analysis": the unit within a police agency responsible for collecting data and providing information that will help the agency prevent, reduce, and solve crime and disorder. The Danvers Police Department uses the term "public safety analysis" in recognition of the fact that our analyst analyzes more than just crime.

The Public Safety Analyst is responsible for collecting data from a wide variety of sources, including the department's records management system, news and alerts from other agencies, newspaper stories, public records, business listings, and geographic surveys. The analyst uses statistical techniques, data querying and aggregation methods, crime mapping applications, and qualitative research methods to turn this raw data into information that the police department can use. Such information might include reports on current crime patterns, trends, and hot spots; intelligence about individuals and organizations involved in criminal activity; crime forecasts and predictions; and reports on the workload of each police beat and shift.

The Danvers Police Department is one of only a few United States departments serving populations of less than 30,000 that has a strong commitment to information analysis. A Public Safety Analyst position has existed within the department since 1988. The current analyst is the Past President of the Massachusetts Association of Crime Analysts and the Vice President of the International Association of Crime Analysts.

The Office of Public Safety Analysis also exists to assist Danvers residents and prospective Danvers residents with their crime and safety concerns. Feel free to call the Office of Public Safety Analysis if you have any questions about crime and safety issues in Danvers.

2004 Crime & Incident Statistics

The following table summarizes crime and other incidents in 2004 compared to previous years. The notes provide a few words of explanation or point to other sections of this report that elaborate.

Incident Type	1999-2003 Average	Usual Range	2003	2004	Change from Avg.	Notes
VIOLENT/PERSONAL CRIME						
Murder	0	0	0	1	N.C.	Single homicide at assisted living facility—see page 20.
Rape	3	1–5	6	1	-67%	Lowest in many years. See page 20.
Indecent Assault	9	6–11	10	8	-11%	All acquaintance incidents.
Accosting	4	2–6	4	4	None	Rare crime. 2004 incidents were unrelated.
Non-forcible Sex Offenses	1	0–2	1	1	None	Single incident of incest.
Peeping & Spying	2	1–3	4	2	None	Pair of unrelated winter incidents. One arrest.
Aggravated Assault	35	23–48	26	32	-9%	See page 22 for full analysis of assaults.
Simple Assault	157	128–187	167	133	-15%	Juvenile assault declined in particular—see page 22.
Robbery	12	6–17	20	8	-33%	Low year followed a high year. See page 20.
Kidnapping	1	0–3	4	2	+100%	Both attempted, stranger incidents.
Threats/Intimidation	116	101–131	115	75	-35%	Significant decrease with no obvious cause.
Bomb Threats	5	4–6	3	2	-60%	Two incidents at businesses. No actual bombs found.
Violation of Restraining Order	51	40–62	42	52	+2%	A couple of repeat violators.
PROPERTY CRIME						
Residential Burglary	36	33–40	37	62	+72%	Patterns in the last 3 months of 2004. See page 23.
Commercial Burglary	35	28–43	33	51	+46%	Patterns in the last 3 months of 2004. See page 23.
Theft from a Car	266	212–319	239	235	-12%	Our most common crime was low in 2004. Page 24.
Theft from a Building	122	102–143	103	96	-21%	Unusually low, with fewer office-related incidents.
Theft from a Person	32	22–41	39	28	-13%	Several shopping-related incidents, but otherwise low
Theft from a Residence	55	40–69	60	48	-13%	Fewer yard/garage thefts; perhaps more resident care.
Theft of a Bicycle	27	18–35	23	24	-11%	Nominal. Most incidents involved youths.
Theft of Services	24	19–28	24	17	-29%	Decreasing as more gas stations require pre-pay.
Shoplifting	221	199–244	214	332	+50%	Skyrocketed as stores cracked down. See page 26.
Other Thefts	23	19–27	30	33	+43%	Thefts from boats made up the bulk.
Auto Theft	71	64–79	60	51	-28%	Record lows caused partly by better security. Page 26.
Arson	3	0–7	4	4	+33%	Slightly high, but no patterns observed in 2004.

Incident Type	1999-2003 Average	Usual Range	2003	2004	Change from Avg.	Notes
Fraud & Forgery	100	71–128	136	138	+38%	Increased for seventh year. See pages 19 and 28.
Embezzlement	25	18–33	35	9	-64%	Unexpected lows, with no identifiable cause.
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0–1	0	0	None	No incidents in either 2003 or 2004.
Stolen Property Offenses	16	11–20	16	15	-6%	No patterns observed in 2004.
Trespassing	37	34–41	42	47	+27%	Increase at old State Hospital grounds.
Vandalism	351	334–367	370	232	-34%	Remarkable decrease with uncertain cause. Page 28.
SOCIETAL/VICE CRIME						
Drug Offenses	72	54–90	79	88	+22%	Disturbing regional increase. See pages 16 and 29
Liquor Law Violations	38	25–51	57	62	+63%	Six-year high. Many underage parties. Page 16.
Drunk Driving	53	37–69	80	107	+102%	Second high year. See page 30.
Prostitution	1	0–3	0	2	+100%	Occasional issue at area budget motels.
Indecent Exposure	7	5–10	9	14	+100%	Unusually high, but no patterns observed.
Weapon Violations	23	4–42	19	22	-4%	Volume depends on studded armband seizures at mall.
Pornography	1	1–2	2	2	+100%	Unrelated investigations of child pornography.
Dumping/Littering	26	21–32	34	28	+8%	Nominal volume. No patterns observed.
Child Neglect	16	7–25	31	17	+6%	Many cases of children left alone at homes or in cars.
DISORDER/QUALITY-OF-LIFE						
Disorderly Conduct	173	143–203	149	123	-29%	Low all over, partly because of liquor crackdowns.
Disputes	577	549–605	602	553	-4%	Nominal volume. No trends observed.
Civil Problems	47	30–64	74	62	+32%	Increase in non-criminal neighbor-related issues.
Noise Complaints	478	436–520	422	441	-8%	Low despite some barking dog and music hot spots.
Fireworks	39	31–47	38	51	+31%	Canceled town fireworks drove some to seek own.
Drunkenness	183	172–194	203	178	-3%	Still a late night problem at some bars.
Vagrancy	25	21–29	24	11	-56%	Low as some “habituals” moved out of town.
Youth Disorder	280	236–324	252	139	-50%	Large cohort of past problem teens “aged out.”
Skateboard, Scooter, & Bike Complaints	127	89–164	171	161	+27%	A few ongoing hot spots in Danvers Square & Endicott.
Suspicious Activity	801	740–861	876	860	+7%	Among others, fears since 9/11 have driven up calls.
Suspicious Package	18	2–33	12	10	-44%	Way down from its high during the Anthrax scare.
Psychiatric Disorder	83	49–116	112	83	None	Nominal volume, No trends observed.
Harassing & Annoying	44	32–56	38	43	-2%	Nominal volume. Mostly acquaintance-related.
Phone Calls	112	100–123	106	87	-22%	Decreasing as Caller ID becomes more popular.

Incident Type	1999-2003 Average	Usual Range	2003	2004	Change from Avg.	Notes
TRAFFIC ISSUES						
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1385	1321–1449	1468	1370	-1%	About average for the year.
Traffic & Parking Complaints	564	520–608	620	502	-11%	Unexpectedly down. Light snow in 2004 winter.
Motor Vehicle Offenses	705	456–953	1135	784	+11%	Still seeing problem with unlicensed driving.
Disabled Motor Vehicles	726	657–795	695	629	-13%	Decreased as cars become more reliable.
Abandoned Motor Vehicles	57	40–74	84	53	-7%	An occasional problem in some large parking lots.
Recovered Stolen Vehicles	37	31–43	33	17	-54%	Tied to auto theft; down as auto theft is down.
Road Conditions	224	204–244	225	227	+1%	Nominal volume. Generally tied to bad weather.
GENERAL SERVICE INCIDENTS						
911 Errors	284	240–327	328	273	-4%	Public education reduces these incidents slowly.
False Alarms	2302	2189–2415	2193	2028	-12%	A welcome decrease.
Animal-Related Incidents	513	392–635	382	369	-28%	Calls for wild animals have been decreasing for years.
Assist Other Agency	173	148–198	199	174	+1%	Miscellaneous assists.
Check Well-Being	758	661–855	695	813	+7%	Up with the new "RUOK" program.
Unattended Death	20	14–26	27	26	+30%	High the last two years.
Fire Assists	105	96–115	90	66	-37%	Low because of decline in fires in 2004.
Found Property	146	132–161	158	141	-3%	Nominal levels.
Lost Property	145	116–174	138	176	+21%	We offered more ways for residents to report in 2004.
Medical Aid	1535	1414–1656	1436	1362	-11%	Down with new protocols for when a police officer goes.
Missing Persons	119	93–145	82	37	-69%	Decreased when IFL on Liberty St closed in 2003.
Returned Persons	87	68–105	60	24	-72%	See above.
Suicide or Attempt	20	13–26	22	13	-35%	Thankfully down. No patterns.
Town/Utility Problem	186	141–231	212	188	+1%	Nominal levels. Often weather-related.
POLICE-DIRECTED ACTIVITY						
Directed Patrols	1201	559–1843	1919	2344	+95%	Increased since 2001 with homeland-security patrols.
Traffic Enforcement	273	198–348	357	368	+35%	Response to resident concerns about some streets.
Warrant Arrests or Service	288	218–358	384	296	+3%	Generally tied to overall crime rate.
Service of Legal Papers	341	306–376	319	309	-9%	Includes restraining orders, summonses, etc.
Prisoner Transport	230	190–271	190	273	+19%	Tied to arrest volume.
OVERALL TOTALS						
Total Calls for Service	18286	17383–19189	19537	18521	+1%	Down from 2003, but up very slightly from the average.
Total Reported Crimes	2204	2034–2375	2258	2159	-2%	Driven by decrease in violent crime and most theft crimes.
Total Arrests	832	691–973	1059	1202	+45%	High for most crimes, but driven by drunk driving and shoplifting increases.

Danvers Crime & Safety Profile

The Public Safety Dynamic

Danvers, located on the north shore of Boston, about equidistant from Boston and the New Hampshire border, has just over 25,000 residents. But unlike most Massachusetts towns of its size, Danvers is in no way a “bedroom community”—with Routes 1 and 114, and the Liberty Tree Mall, Danvers has the commercial traffic of a town several times its size.

We find within Danvers’s borders a number of features non-existent in most other small towns. These include:

- A major shopping mall
- Several industrial parks
- Two major U.S. highways (U.S. Route 1 and U.S. Route 95) and four heavily trafficked state routes (128, 114, 35, and 62).
- A harbor and several marinas
- 10 hotels and motels
- Part of an airport
- Three high schools—two public and one private
- Seven assisted living facilities
- Fifteen department stores
- More than 70 restaurants, pubs, and fast food establishments

Understanding the public safety dynamic means understanding the characteristics and contrasts of the residential and commercial communities.

The residential community of Danvers is predominantly middle class and upper-middle class. It is racially homogeneous (97.7% white and 99.2% non-Hispanic) and has 77.1% owner-occupied housing (statewide is 66.2%). Most of the indicators known to influence higher crime rates—absentee landlords, dilapidated buildings, transitional neighborhoods, poverty, and social disorganization—are absent from Danvers. Neighbors generally know each other and can identify suspicious activity. There are variations within the town, of course—the lower half of Danvers (below Route 62) has more rental housing than the upper half, and here residential space mixes with commercial space—but these statements generally hold true throughout our 14.09 square miles.

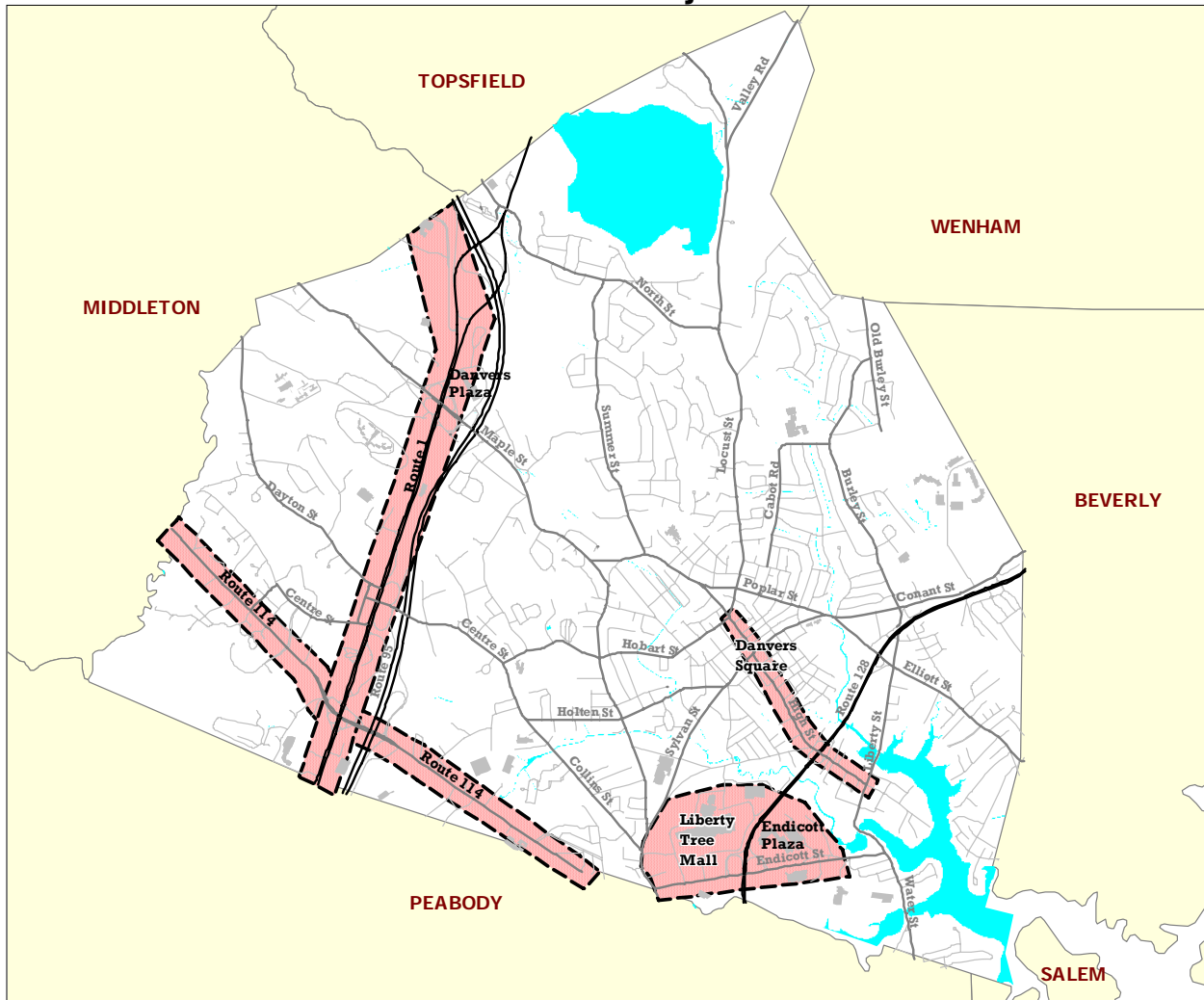


The problems experienced by this residential community are typical of many communities like it. There is sporadic domestic violence among specific families. As we cover later, drug abuse and its related crime has taken hold among many teenagers, even from “good” families. Houses, though owner-occupied and usually single-family, are close together, leading to expected neighbor disputes and noise complaints. But none of these types of problems are unusually high in Danvers. Conversely, Danvers has very little “street” crime. Street robberies or “muggings” are a rarity, occurring only once every one or two years. It has been more than eight years since the last sexual assault on a Danvers street. Housebreaks, while high in 2004, are about average for a community of our size.

In sharp contrast is the commercial and transitional population of Danvers. With the exception of Danvers Square, which is well-integrated into the local community, the residential and commercial areas attract more out-of-town patrons than local ones—visitors who think of “Danvers” as the Liberty Tree Mall, Route 114, and Route 1. The number of people, both potential offenders and targets, drawn to these areas creates a unique dynamic for the police. Our four major commercial zones—Route 1, Route 114, the Liberty Tree Mall, and Danvers Square—account for 38% of all calls for police service and 56% of all crimes.

Some problems, all commercial zones share. These include shoplifting, thefts from cars in retail parking lots, motor vehicle accidents, disputes between retailers and patrons, false burglar alarms, and the occasional robbery or purse snatching in the areas around the stores. Other problems are unique to specific zones.

The Town of Danvers with its Major Commercial Zones



38% of all calls for police service come from the highlighted areas, which represent only 12% of our total area.

Liberty Tree Mall/Endicott: A large number of youths frequent the Liberty Tree Mall and certain establishments around Endicott Plaza. These youths come in groups from other towns, and sometimes get into disputes or fights with other groups of youths. They have been known to harass or bother legitimate shoppers.

Route 114: As one of the most congested traffic routes on the north shore, there are lots of traffic problems on this busy stretch of road, including accidents, disabled cars, and traffic disputes. The large number of auto dealerships make attractive targets for auto parts thieves.

Route 1: Route 1, or Newbury Street, has several restaurants and bars that stay open late, producing a number of drunk-and-disorderly arrests as well as drunk driving arrests each year. Thieves often target cars in restaurant parking lots. There are also several hotels along Route 1 that host transients, partiers, drug-users, and occasional prostitutes along with legitimate guests.

Danvers Square/High Street: Populated mostly by local residents and workers, Danvers Square is the safest commercial area in the town, but there are still occasional problems. The area suffered a series of commercial burglaries in the fall of 2004. Complaints of disorderly local youths (including harassing patrons and skateboarding) has been a problem in the past. High Street is a fairly congested route that produces a number of traffic problems.

We must emphasize that the problems experienced within these commercial zones are not *unusually* high for major commercial areas. A certain number of crimes and calls for service are to be expected where lots of people gather to shop, eat, and entertain themselves. Any community with a large commercial population—Burlington, Peabody, Saugus, and so on—experiences the same types of incidents. Moreover, the problems experienced in our commercial zones do not typically spill over into the residential zones. To take a few of examples:

- There were 52 thefts from cars at the Liberty Tree Mall last year, but Ash Street and Abington Road—the two residential streets that abut the Liberty Tree Mall—had no thefts from cars.
- MacArthur Boulevard intersects Route 114 at one of its busiest points. But there was only one crime—a single incident of vandalism—on MacArthur Boulevard in 2004. The nearby streets of Ray Street, Palmer Avenue, and Bow Street had no crimes.
- There were 103 crimes along the commercial section of Endicott Street in 2004 (between Sylvan Street and Needham Road). There were no crimes along the residential section of Endicott Street (between Needham Road and Water Street).



The Liberty Tree Mall and its surrounding stores is one of many features that distinguishes Danvers from the typical "small town."

The overall point is that there is a distinct contrast between the two communities that Danvers police must serve and protect. Any analysis of crime and safety in Danvers must keep this distinction in mind.

In 2004, we saw the effects of new businesses (e.g., Home Depot and Pier One at the Liberty Tree Mall) and residential developments (e.g., Avalon Bay Village off Route 114), as well as the closings of some old businesses, such as the King's Grant Inn off Route 128 and Friendly's on High Street. As Danvers continues to develop and change, its public safety dynamic will change with it.

Highlights & Notable Incidents of 2004

Highlights

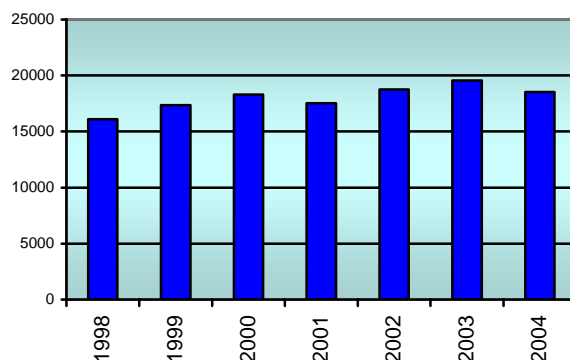
After reaching a seven-year high in 2003, calls for service dropped slightly in 2004, with decreases in many non-crime categories.

Total crimes were also down for the second year. Some crimes increased, of course, and the table on Page 5 shows the specific fluctuations. In particular, commercial and residential burglary shot up during the fourth quarter, with several patterns in the downtown area. These have not continued so far in 2005.

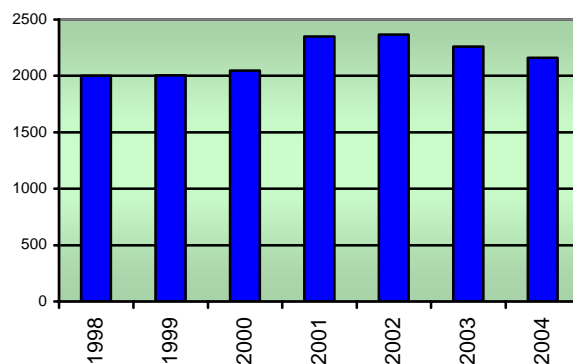
In contrast to call-for-service and crime figures, total arrests were up significantly, to the highest level in at least a decade. Arrests, which are driven by increases and decreases in specific crimes, went up primarily because of increases in shoplifting and drunk driving. But almost every crime—from burglary to assault—produced more arrests in 2004 than in previous years. When arrests increase at the same time that overall crime decreases, it indicates extra effort on the part of the police department, higher case clearances, and generally improved public safety.

A look at long-term trend activity shows that, as serious, or “index,” crimes go, we have fluctuated between 850 and 1100 incidents per year since 1996—a significant decrease from the peak of 1876 reported in 1988. Like most cities and towns in the United States, Danvers’s crime totals decreased significantly during the 1990s.

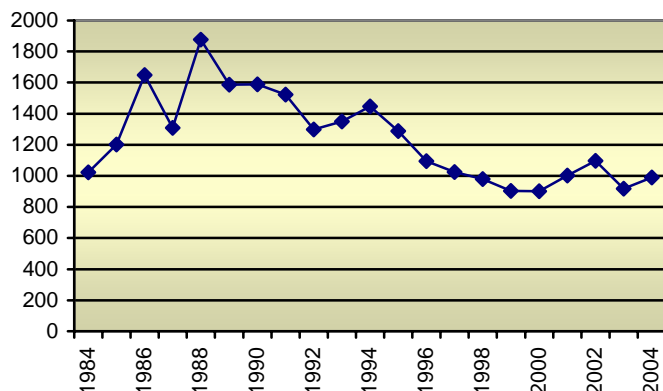
Total Calls for Service in Danvers



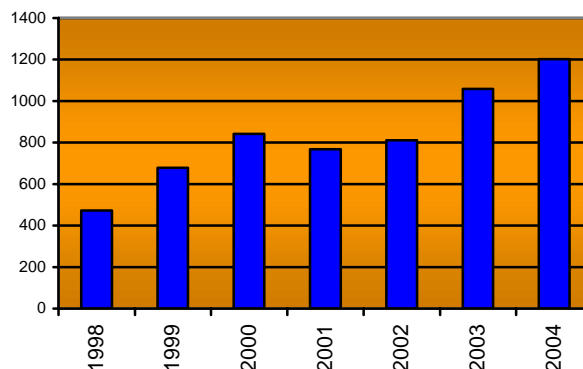
Total Crimes in Danvers



Total Index Crimes in Danvers



Total Arrests in Danvers



Notable Incidents and Events by Month

January

January 8, 2004

Drug Store Burglary. A Danvers Square drug store suffers its fourth burglary in a year, probably committed by the same burglar as the previous three. The burglar has defied attempts to catch him by greatly varying the number of days between hits; as few as two months and as many as five have gone by between burglaries. He spends only a brief amount of time in the store (two minutes or less) and is usually gone by the time officers respond to the alarm.



January 19, 2004

Auto Dealership Thefts. An ongoing pattern of thefts from auto dealerships occupies officers' attention. Nine thefts have occurred since Christmas 2003, at various dealers, with various types of car parts stolen. Officers increase their patrols of these dealerships at nighttime.



Purse Theft Series. We have a brief series of purse thefts from shoppers at Liberty Tree Mall stores in afternoons. Shoppers who "turn their backs" or otherwise become distracted are losing their purses from their shopping carriages.

March

March 4, 2004

Housebreak Arrest. A resident reports two men breaking into his neighbor's house on Hollis Road. Police respond and arrest two 20-year-old Lynn men. This arrests ends a series of housebreaks in Danvers in which the burglars ransacked the house and stole jewelry.

March 15, 2004

Murder. Danvers's only murder of the year is reported at the Atrium, an assisted living facility off Route 114 near Route 1. A 78-year-old Alzheimer's patient shoves an 83-year-old patient during an argument. The 83-year-old

man fell to the ground, struck his head, suffered injuries, and later died at the hospital. The "suspect" was transferred to another facility and later died there of natural causes.

March 16, 2004

Purse Snatching Arrests. Danvers Police arrest a 24-year-old Salem woman and a 28-year-old Beverly man for a series of seven purse snatchings in Danvers and Peabody. The thieves would drive into shopping center parking lots and pull up next to elderly women walking to or from the stores. One thief would reach out the window and snatch the purse as the car drove by.

March 22, 2004

Health Club Thefts. A series of evening thefts from cars in health club parking lots is plaguing the town. Thieves take unattended wallets and purses, and use the credit cards at area stores. Officers increased patrol of health club lots, and for this or another reason, the pattern went away. A suspect from Raymond, New Hampshire was identified, but there was not enough evidence to bring charges against him.

March 27, 2004

Auto Dealership Thefts. The ongoing series of thefts from auto dealerships intensifies. Three newer-model cars are stolen from dealerships in the space of a month. Two are recovered in nearby towns.



April

April 1, 2004

Computer Scam. Danvers Detectives arrest two brothers, 39 and 42, from Dorchester, who have been involved in a series of scams. The brothers would offer to sell laptop computers to Liberty Tree Mall shoppers for \$200 or \$250. These "laptops" were actually empty laptop boxes, doctored up to look legitimate, stuffed with magazines and advertising fliers to give them weight. There were four incidents reported prior to the arrests, and one later, in June. The con artists may still be in the area.



Danvers Police

The phony laptop boxes used by con artists.

April 6, 2004

Barking Dogs. Police are trying to deal with a problem of barking dog calls at a local marina. The owner has deployed the dogs to combat ongoing thefts from boats at area marinas, but the dogs bark at night and keep local residents awake. This problem would continue on and off throughout the year.

April 8, 2004

Shoplifting Increase Apparent. By this time in the year, shoplifting is up 43%, with Wal-Mart, Kohl's, and Stop & Shop reporting the most incidents. There seems to be a specific trend of baby formula theft developing.

April 23, 2004

Thefts from Boats. A series of thefts from boats is affecting Danvers and Salem. The *Salem News* reports on it. The stolen equipment includes radar equipment, GPS devices, and other electronics.



May

May 3, 2004

Computer Shopliftings. An 18-year-old Peabody man is identified as a suspect in a string of computer shopliftings all over town. The suspect's *modus operandi* was to remove the computer from the box in the store, and walk around with it under his arm for a while, acting like he brought the computer in with him and was looking for accessories. The man was eventually charged with the thefts.

May 3, 2004

Trespasser Summoned. A Danvers Police officer discovers a web site that encourages visitors to trespass at vacant buildings in Danvers. There are photographs on the web site of the interiors of buildings at Danvers Stat Hospital and the Holten-Richmond School (which was under construction). The web site's owner, a 28-year-old Danvers resident, was summonsed to court for trespassing.

May 12, 2004

Auto Dealership Theft Arrest. A 25-year-old Cambridge man is arrested for breaking into a car at a Route 114 auto dealership. He is also suspected for having stolen a car from the same dealership a week prior, and having dumped it in Cambridge. There would eventually be seven thefts from dealerships in the month of May.

May 15, 2004

More Health Club Thefts. Another series of evening health club thefts is occurring in Danvers, this time at Gold's Gym on Prince Street. The thieves target both cars and lockers, looking for unattended wallets and purses, and using credit cards shortly after the thefts at area department stores. A 37-year-old Revere man and a 35-year-old Malden man are identified as possible suspects, but there is not enough evidence to charge them.



June

June 4, 2004

Mall Thefts from Cars. Thefts from cars at the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot are higher than normal—a dozen in the past two months, concentrated between 18:00 and 22:00. The thefts eventually dwindled away without an arrest.

June 7, 2004

Another Drug Store Burglary. Yet another burglary is reported at the same downtown drug store that has been hit four times previously since March 2003. It has been six months since the last burglary—the longest yet—but the same burglar is clearly involved. Neighbors provide some possible suspect descriptions, but not enough to identify the burglars.

July

July 3, 2004

Neighbor Feud. Two neighbors on Locust Street have been feuding over their land boundaries for years. This feud produced 16 police responses in 2003 for issues such as trespassing, vandalism, and threatening. After six months of dormancy, the dispute erupts again, with two new incidents. Officers do their best to mediate in this ongoing problem.

July 4, 2004

Quiet Fourth of July. For the first time in a quarter century, the Danvers Family Festival ends without the traditional fireworks (renovations at the Holten-Richmond School make the area unsafe). Arrests and disorderly conduct incidents drop considerably for Fourth of July week. However, Danvers residents compensate for the lack of town fireworks by setting off their own: there are 25 police calls for “fireworks” during the week, more than double the number in 2003.



July 5, 2004

Liquor Parties on the Rise. A trend becomes apparent: an increase in underage liquor parties. There have been nine incidents in the past two months. At this point in the year, 125 youths have been arrested, charged, or suspected for liquor law violations, indicating a widespread problem—not one confined to a small group of youths.

July 8, 2004

Route 114 Thefts from Cars. A brief series of car stereo thefts hits parking lots on Route 114 in the evening hours, particularly in restaurant

parking lots. No suspects are identified or charged, and the pattern ends on its own.

July 17, 2004

Suspicious Solicitors. Several residents have called the police reporting suspicious and aggressive magazine salespeople coming to their doors. Danvers Police discover that the salespeople are employed by American Community Services, whose employees have been arrested for murder, rape, and theft in communities across the country. Officers aggressively enforce the town bylaw against peddling, requiring ACS employees to register at the police department and submit to background checks. Several of them have criminal histories and are denied permits. The group had come to Danvers after being evicted from Peabody the previous week.

July 28, 2004

Housebreaks Increasing. Analysis shows that residential burglary is up 45% from the previous year, but that there are few common elements. Many of them have been committed by offenders known by the victims.

July 30, 2004

Boat Theft Arrests. The Salem Police arrest a 33-year-old man and a 27-year-old woman, both from Salem, for a series of thefts from boats at area marinas. In the past six months, they have stolen more than \$100,000 in marine electronics from north shore towns, including several incidents in Danvers. They were caught selling the stolen items on E-Bay.

August

August 4, 2004

Cemetery Thefts. A ghoulish pattern emerges: the thefts of purses from cars parked at cemeteries. We had four incidents in October of 2003, then nothing for 10 months, and then two new ones in July and August of 2004. Officers increase patrols at cemeteries and the pattern disappears. Peabody Police would arrest two Boston men for cemetery thefts later in the year, but they would not match the suspect descriptions from the Danvers incidents.



September

September 10, 2004

Downtown Business Breaks Begin. The first incident occurs in what would become one of the most prolific series in 2004: nighttime burglaries at downtown businesses. The pattern will eventually include a dozen incidents, most at small, locally-owned hair and beauty establishments. The burglar enters by prying a door, and he looks for cash in safes and registers. He is phenomenally unsuccessful, netting less than \$400 in 12 burglaries.

November

November 5, 2004

Possible Scam Activity. The Rye, New Hampshire police report to Danvers that one of their businesses received a call from someone offering to sell “overstocked” Sony televisions and laptop computers. This is a classic incident in what has become known as the “Big Carrot” scam (see Page 29). In this case, the con artist wants to meet in Danvers, but the victim catches wise and hangs up. Danvers police alert the community that this scam is occurring again.

November 10, 2004

Gas Station Burglary Pattern Begins. The downtown hair and beauty shop pattern has been replaced (or has evolved into) a series of burglaries at gas stations. The same station on High Street is burglarized five times. As in the previous pattern, the thief is looking for cash, and is not very successful in getting any—less than \$300 in nine burglaries. Meanwhile, a sixth incident occurs in the ongoing downtown drug store burglary series, new series of thefts emerges at Route 114 and Route 1 auto dealerships, a pattern of handicapped placard thefts begins along Endicott Street, and barking dog calls increase at local marinas. It is not a good month so far.

November 13, 2004

Water Street Housebreak Pattern. Three houses on Water Street report housebreaks in a three-day period. Their *modus operandi* suggests a local juvenile. A detective identifies two teen suspects—there is not enough evidence to charge them, but the incidents stop once they are spoken to.

November 24, 2004

Back Bay Housebreak Pattern. A housebreak pattern begins to develop in the Back Bay area of town, with the burglar entering by forcing a door and targeting video games and video game systems. There are eventually eight incidents in the series, but the series ends after a 19-year-old Beverly man is caught in the act and arrested.

December

December 1, 2004

Shoplifting on the Rise. There are significant shoplifting increases at stores that don't normally report shoplifting. The crime would end the year 50% higher than average. Several chronic shoplifters, all from out of town, are identified.

December 4, 2004

Holiday Decorations Vandalized. As happens every year, we start to receive reports of stolen and vandalized holiday decorations. A Frosty the Snowman is slashed on Wenham Street and a reindeer is destroyed on Forest Street.

December 15, 2004

Video Game Theft Pattern Emerges. Analysis shows that a trend of video game thefts is emerging. The thefts occur during both housebreaks and shoplifting incidents, but the games are definitely a hot target. Danvers police suspect the recent proliferation of stores offering cash for used games.

December 22, 2004

Auto Dealership Thefts Increasing Again. Thefts from auto dealerships are skyrocketing again, with eighteen since October 3. Thieves are targeting tailgates, tires, headlights, stereos, and other parts. They strike in the middle of the night. Danvers Police increase patrols of auto dealership parking lots, but the sheer number of lots, their size, and the ease with which thieves can conceal themselves between cars makes catching them difficult. A 28-year-old Peabody man is arrested on December 30, dealing a blow to the pattern for a while.

Current Trends and Problems

Drug and Alcohol Abuse on the Rise

The statistics are simple: From the average, drug offenses were up 22 percent in 2004. Liquor law violations were up 63 percent. Drunk driving was up 102 percent. In 2004, 45 percent of intimate partner violence involved drugs or alcohol. At least 58 percent of individuals arrested for residential burglary since 1998 are substance abusers. Around 50 percent of non-juveniles arrested for robbery are substance abusers. Substance abuse plays a part in at least half of all non-juvenile shoplifting. In summary, all evidence suggests that crime would plummet if substance abuse could be somehow eliminated.

The drug and alcohol “problem” manifests itself in various ways. These include:

1. *Overdoses*, including fatalities, from both drugs and alcohol. We responded to 55 overdoses (including both drugs and alcohol, and including some deliberate) in 2004 and 62 in 2003. There were five fatalities in 2004—four relating to drugs, one alcohol; at least one and possibly two others were deliberate suicides. However, police statistics are not the best place to look for overdose data. Many overdoses end up at hospitals without police involvement.
2. *Violent crime*, including assaults and rapes, committed while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
3. *Violence* committed by and against individuals during drug transactions, or battling over parts of the drug trade. Such incidents are rare in Danvers, but not completely absent. The true extent of these incidents is unknown, since victims are usually unwilling to offer up the fact that they are involved in drug trafficking.
4. *Thefts, fraud, and burglary* committed by drug addicts to support their habits.
5. *Accidents*—both vehicular and industrial—caused by individuals under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
6. *Illegal possession* of drugs and alcohol—that is, the actual violations of state statutes. Although this is the facet of the problem most often seen and engaged by police, it is not in and of itself a “problem” except in that it causes the other five issues above.

As we see from the drug and liquor offense statistics for 2004, the problem appears to have gotten worse recently. But police data are inadequate to understand the problem. The police report on only a tiny fraction of all incidents of drug use, alcohol abuse, under-aged drinking, and drunk driving that actually occur. Many things can affect police statistics, including extra efforts on the part of patrol officers or investigators and changes in reporting practices from the community. Whenever we see a statistic showing drug offenses have increased 22 percent, we have to ask: is this a “real” increase, or just an increase in the portion of the problem that police see?

As 2004 ended and the Danvers Police Department began to study these increases for the purposes of this report, *The Salem News* published a series of articles on drug addiction on the North Shore. The reporters at the *News* interviewed police, prosecutors, doctors, clinicians, and families, and they presented statistics and stories indicating that drug abuse is indeed a crucial problem in our region. The articles focused primarily on what the *News* called a “OxyContin and heroin epidemic” and found that opiate addicts are increasingly white, middle-class, and young. Several stories traced the lives of suburban teens, many from “good” families, many honor students, as they became addicted to opiates, turned to crime to support their habits, and ended up in jail. Essex County District Attorney John Blodgett called heroin and OxyContin abuse “the greatest threat facing our youth today.”

There is evidence to support the *News* stories within our records. In the past year, we have half a dozen cases of teens stealing repeatedly from their families to support drug habits, and we can trace the paths of an equal number of teens from initial addiction to more serious crime to jail. But while focusing on teens and on “serious” drugs like opiates is natural when studying this type of problem, it is important to remember several things:

- While drug addiction among teens is a serious problem, addiction among adults is arguably an equally serious or more serious problem. Most of the drug-addicted professional burglars, shoplifters, robbers, and thieves arrested by the Danvers Police are in their late 20s, 30s, and 40s. Note that in the chart below, heroin possession peaks in the 20s and 30s, not the teens.
- At least as reflected in police statistics, marijuana use is a far more common problem than opiate use, particularly among teens. One hundred and seventy-two teens between the ages of 15 and 19 have been arrested or suspected for marijuana offenses in the past three years. Among teens, casual marijuana use is so common as to almost be the norm. (It must be noted here, however, that marijuana use rarely leads to further crimes; that is, few criminals steal or burglarize to support “marijuana habits.”)
- For violent crimes, alcohol abuse remains a far more serious problem than drug use. Illegal alcohol use may also be increasing among area teens: in 2004, we responded to 16 underage liquor parties at Danvers houses and motels, compared to 11 in 2003 and seven in 2002. In 2004, we arrested 18 teenagers for drunk driving, compared with 11 in 2003 and four in 2002.

Individuals Involved in Drug Offenses Recorded by Danvers Police Since 2002

Drug Type	Age of Offender									Total
	10–14	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45–49	50+	
Marijuana	13	172	61	21	12	15	7	5	5	311
Cocaine/Crack	0	15	16	5	10	4	3	3	2	58
Heroin	1	8	14	10	14	1	4	1	3	56
Prescription Drugs ¹	2	15	10	5	4	4	1	4	1	46
Other/Unknown	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	5

Just as police only see a small portion of the drug and alcohol problem, they are unfortunately only a small portion of the problem’s solution. While arrests occasionally jar someone into “going straight,” and while certain potential offenders (e.g., drunk drivers) can be deterred by aggressive enforcement, most police activity can only treat the symptom, not the disease.

Police have a duty to enforce the law, and the Danvers Police will continue to do that duty. But we do so aware that our efforts are likely to have a negligible affect on the extent of drug and alcohol use in our community. The real solution lies in families, schools, peer groups, and social services. It lies in treatment, prevention, education, and good parenting. We are eager to lend what limited support we can to these efforts.

¹ Includes OxyContin, Vicodin, and other prescription opiates

Thefts at Auto Dealerships

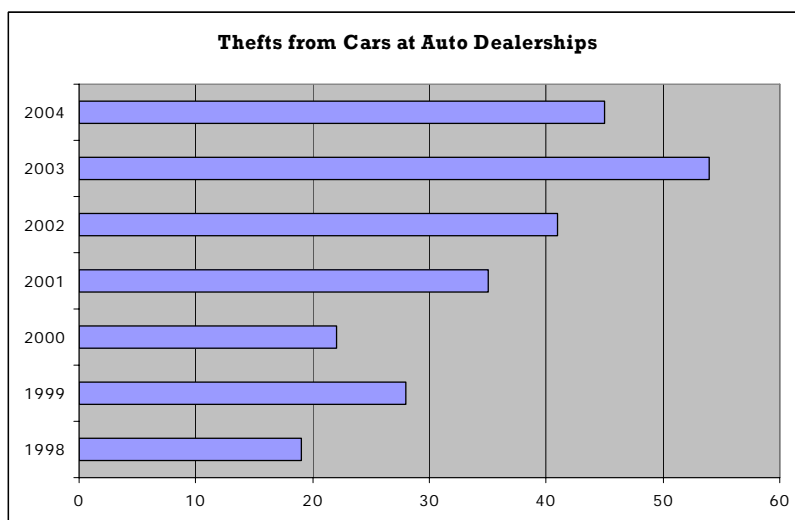
For over seven years, Danvers has been battling an increasing trend of thefts of cars and car parts at our many auto dealerships. Every year, patterns of dealership thefts dominate our internal crime reviews and directed patrol plans.

The problem is particularly difficult for police to solve, for two primary reasons:

1. Auto dealerships are difficult to patrol. There are many places to hide. Thieves can easily conceal themselves and wait for police patrols to leave.
2. The crimes seem to be committed by a large number of individuals. We have made multiple arrests over the years, but none of them have made it go away. It seems wherever there is a large supply of available targets, offenders will come.

Though some dealerships have been “hot spots” on-and-off, this problem affects all of them—no dealership in Danvers has been immune from thefts in recent years. Almost all of the thefts occur at night, of course, or on weekend days when the dealership is closed.

Most common stolen items are car stereos, tires & rims, and headlights. Airbags, DVD players, doors, and tailgates are also commonly stolen. Many of these thefts have required a high-degree of skill, and special tools, to effect. This indicates skilled thieves who are likely working off a “shopping list” of parts needed by crooked autobody shops



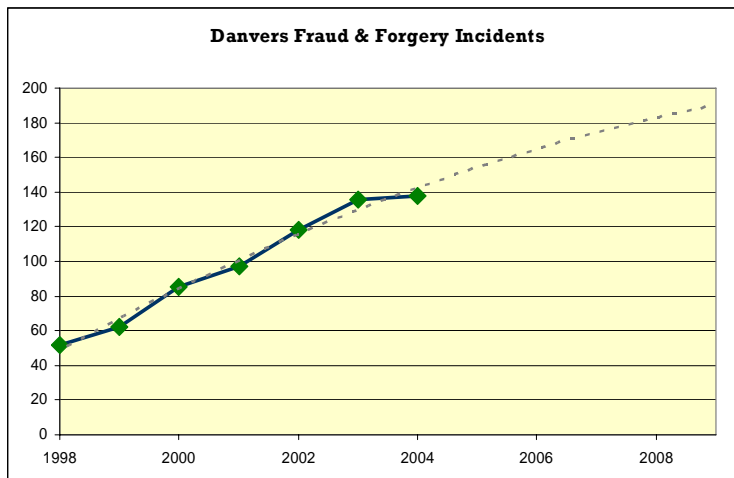
It is the demand from these “outlets of sale” that drives the crime. Consequently, targeting the markets for these stolen parts is likely to have a more significant impact on the thefts than simply arresting offenders. However, there is no current indication that any of the “outlets” for the stolen parts are in Danvers. Since multiple towns are experiencing these thefts, and the “outlets” are likely to be in still other towns. The need for some kind of cross-jurisdictional task force is indicated.

Danvers police will continue to aggressively patrol auto dealerships in 2005, as we look for new solutions to this long-term problem.

Fraud & Forgery

Fraud and forgery incidents have increased in Danvers every year for the last eight. We had 138 in 2004, and as the trendline shows, we will near 200 per year within four years.

This, of course, is a national trend, and almost all of our fraud & forgery incidents have cross-jurisdictional implications: a credit card stolen in Saugus is used in Danvers; checks stolen in Danvers are forged in Peabody; a Danvers resident's identity is used to buy a car in New York; a Danvers woman is informed via phone from Canada that she has won the Australian lottery. And so on.



Forgery is often in the middle of a chain of related offenses. If a victim finds out that a wallet or purse has been stolen from his or her car, shopping cart, jacket, or health club locker, there's a good chance that the credit cards or checks within that wallet or purse will soon be used to purchase gasoline, meals, and expensive electronics. Thieves often then illegally sell the purchased goods for

cash (either at organized "fencing operations," which are rare, or just on the street or out of their cars). Many forgers and fraudsters are drug addicts, who use the profits to buy narcotics. We see then, that reducing fraud and forgery may also reduce thefts, hurt fencing operations, and suppress drug activity.

Type	2001	2002	2003	2004
Bad Check	5	6	7	10
Con Game	11	18	16	15
Counterfeiting	21	16	13	13
Credit/ATM Card	44	43	50	62
Forged Check	7	17	27	19
Identity Theft	8	17	18	17
Other	1	1	5	2

Fraud isn't increasing in all categories. As these statistics since 2001 show, the

biggest increase has come in the form of simple credit card or ATM card fraud—an eminently preventable crime, if stores simply adopted policies requiring their clerks to check photo identification. Other types of fraud and forgery can be reduced through public education. But certainly something has to be done about "America's Fastest-Growing Crime," and the Danvers Police Department will have to work closely with other agencies to make a dent in it.

See Page 28 for more information about fraud and forgery.

Analysis of Crime & Disorder

Murder

Murder: *The willful, non-negligent, non-justified killing of one human being by another.*

Average of 0 • 1 in 2003

As in most cities and towns of Danvers's size, murder is a very rare phenomenon. The single murder in 2004 occurred on March 15, when a 78-year-old Alzheimer's patient pushed an 83-year-old patient during an argument at the Atrium, an assisted living facility on Veronica Drive. The victim fell to the ground, struck his head, suffered injuries, and later died in the hospital. The "offender" was transferred to another facility and later died there of natural causes.

The most recent murder before this occurred on October 19, 2001, when a Danvers postman was bludgeoned to death in his apartment by an acquaintance.

Until the 2001 killing, Danvers had not experienced a murder since 1992. (A highly-publicized 1996 mob-related incident in which body parts turned up in a Danvers car wash actually occurred in another jurisdiction.)

After a high of six in 2003, rape plummeted to only a single incident in 2004. Moreover, the one incident reported didn't actually occur in 2004, but three years earlier.

The 21 rapes and attempted rapes reported in Danvers since 1998 break down into the following categories:

- 14 "acquaintance" rapes. These are rapes by friends, schoolmates, co-workers, and service providers. Eight of the victims in these incidents have been teenagers.
- 4 "domestic" rapes. These were committed by husbands or boyfriends.
- 3 "contact" rapes. In these instances, the victims do not really "know" her attackers, but did have some prior contact with them. In the case of all three of the ones in Danvers, the prior contact was meeting the attacker in an out-of-town bar and agreeing to go with the attacker to a house or motel.

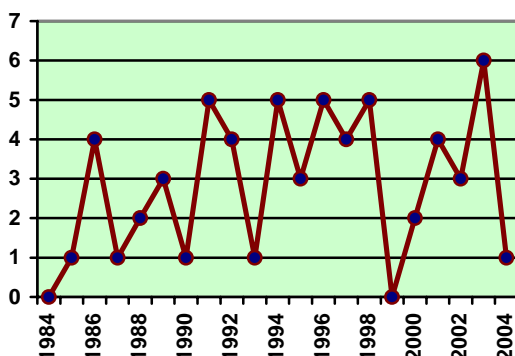
The type of rape most often feared by the public is the "blitz" rape in which a stranger attacks a victim on the street. No rapes of this type have occurred in Danvers in at least eight years.

Rape

Rape: *The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person's will, or not forcibly or against the person's will in cases where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. Attempts are included.*

Average of 3 • 1 in 2004 • 67% Decrease

Rape, 1984–2004

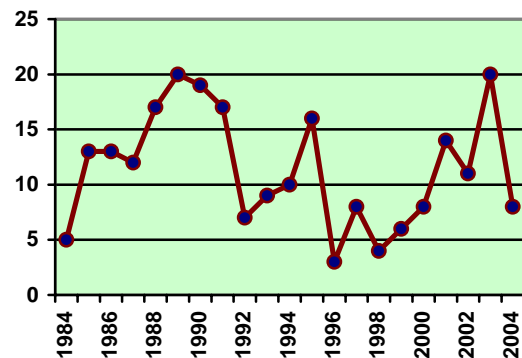


Robbery

Robbery: *The taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of harm.*

Average of 12 • 8 in 2004 • 33% Decrease

Robbery, 1984–2004



After reporting a 15-year high in 2003, robbery dropped sharply in 2004. There were no robberies within the last five months of the year.

Robbery has two broad classifications: individual robbery and commercial robbery. Individual robberies are committed against private individuals, usually on the street or in a public place. Commercial robberies are committed against institutions or businesses, such as banks, gas stations, and liquor stores.

Individual robberies can be further sub-categorized into *acquaintance robberies*, *domestic robberies*, *muggings*, *purse snatchings*, *carjackings*, *drug-related robberies*, *home invasion robberies*, and *juvenile robberies*.

There were a couple of patterns among the 2004 incidents:

In a continuation of a 2003 pattern, the same gas station on High Street was held up twice in a five-day period: January 27 and February 1. In both cases, the suspect was a white male in his 20s wearing a hooded sweatshirt. In both cases, he committed the robbery ineptly and ran off empty-handed. He was never identified.

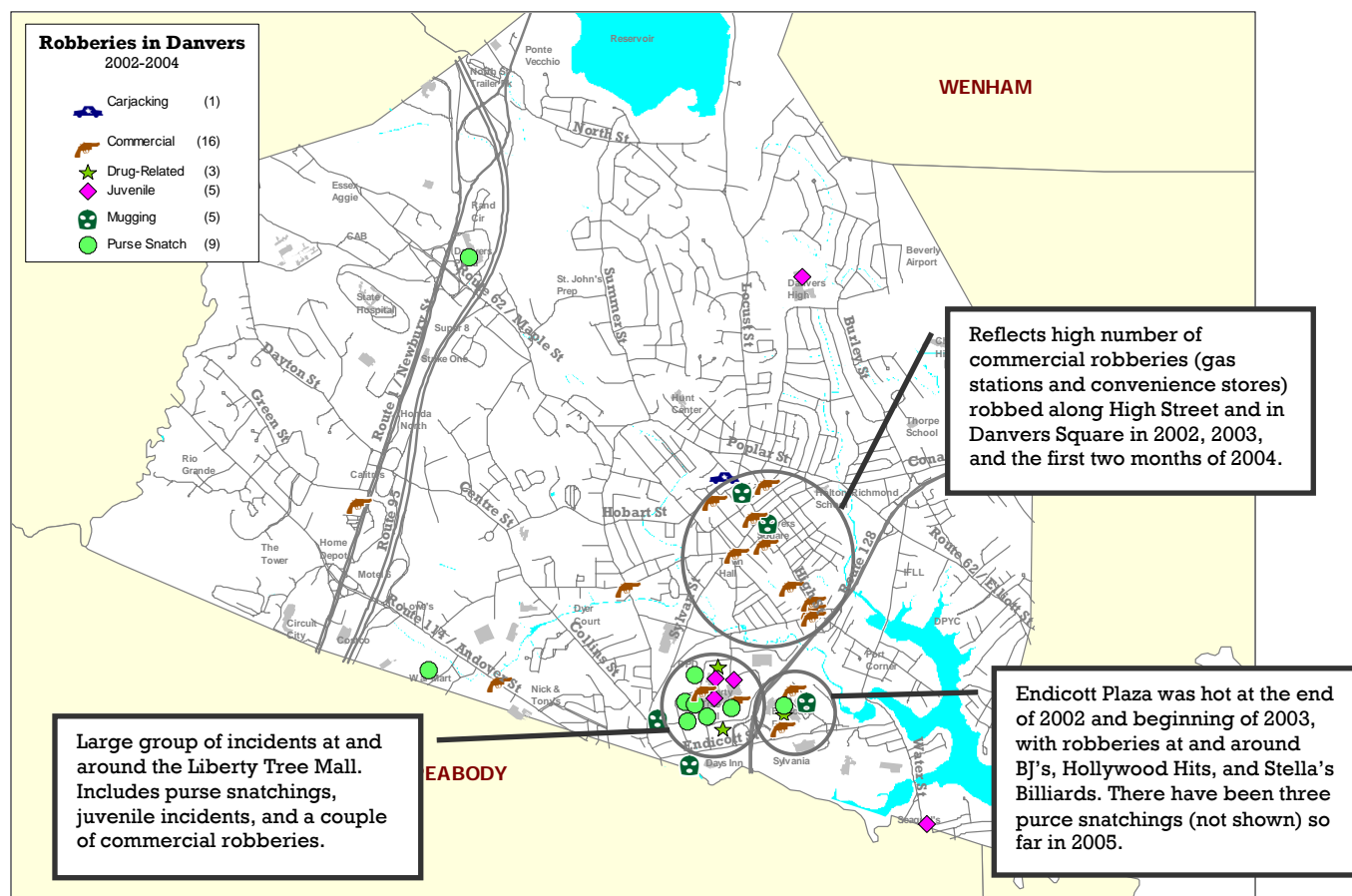
Four women in their 50s or 60s were robbed by purse snatchers between February 16 and March 16. Three of the incidents occurred at the Liberty Tree Mall, and one at Danvers Plaza. In all cases, the victims were walking to their cars when the robbers drove up in a car and wrenched their purses from their arms. A 24-year-old Salem man and a 28-year-old Peabody woman were arrested for the series on March 16.

This particular *modus operandi*—purse snatchings with elderly female victims, committed by a boyfriend and girlfriend working together, both drug addicts—recurred with another mall incident on July 10, 2004, and three Endicott Plaza incidents in February and March, 2005. Each of the offenses was committed by different suspects, but they all matched this profile.

The final robbery of the year occurred on July 27, when a 19-year-old Jamaica Plan youth robbed a Cumberland Farms patron. The store clerk was the suspect's cousin and immediately identified him to police, resulting in an arrest.

The map below gives a breakdown of robberies in Danvers in the past three years:

Robberies in Danvers, 2002–2004



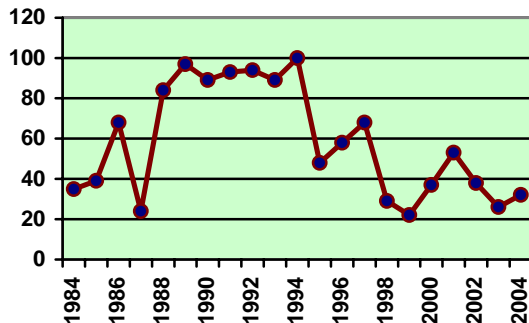
Aggravated Assault

Aggravated Assault: The unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated injury involving broken bones, loss of teeth, internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness.

Average of 35 • 32 in 2004 • 9% Decrease

Statistics vary wildly for aggravated assault (from Over 100 in 1994 to only 22 in 1999) because victims' reporting practices vary. The peak in aggravated assault between 1988 and 1994 probably has less to do with any real increase, and more to do with the success of domestic violence advocacy projects, which encouraged more domestic violence victims to report abuse. We hope that the strong decreases of the past two years have been real decreases, and do not represent victims who are reluctant to file reports.

Aggravated Assault, 1984–2004



In 2004, there were two aggravated assaults that we categorized as “random,” meaning they were between strangers and unprovoked. They were:

1. On January 1, one Wal-Mart shopper pulled a knife on another and held it to his stomach. The offender thought that the victim had “cut” in line. The suspect fled without causing injury.
2. On April 12, two drunk 19-year-olds from Peabody and Salem were bothering other patrons during a movie at Loew's Cinema. When confronted by another theater-goer, the suspects pulled a knife and threatened to stab the victim as well as a manager. They were both arrested on scene. No injury was inflicted.

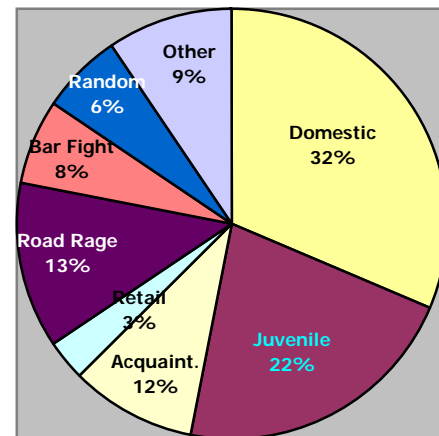
This year, 31% of all aggravated assaults were domestic, committed by and against spouses, boyfriends & girlfriends, parents, children, siblings, and other family relations. This percentage always hovers around 33% each year.

Aggravated Assaults by Category

Category	2001	2002	2003	2004
Domestic	17	16	9	10
Juvenile	9	2	7	7
Acquaintance	9	7	5	3
Bar Fight	4	2	0	2
Road Rage	4	3	2	4
Random/Stranger	6	5	0	2
Retail/Patron	1	1	3	1
Workplace	1	1	0	0
Other/Unknown	1	1	0	3

Only one aggravated assault in 2004 involved a gun. On May 23, shots were fired at the Sheraton Ferncroft, directed at a 19-year-old guest. No one was hit. The victim was uncooperative, and the incident could not be categorized.

2003 Aggravated Assaults by Category



None of the aggravated assaults in 2004 resulted in serious injury.

Simple Assault

In contrast to aggravated assaults, “simple assaults” describe attacks involve neither dangerous weapons nor serious injury to the victims. Examples include a slap in the face, a kick to the shin, or a shoving match.

In 2004, simple assaults decreased 15% from the average and 20% from 2003. Almost all categories decreased from the average—juvenile assaults in particular (a particularly active group of local juveniles moved out of town and/or “aged out” of crime in 2003; this caused decreases in many juvenile crime categories).

Assaults on retail employees by patrons increased. This increase was a direct result of more aggressive shoplifting enforcement at several stores; apprehended shoplifters sometimes fight loss prevention officers, resulting in an assault charge.

Simple Assaults by Category

Category	2001	2002	2003	2004
Domestic	59	59	73	60
Juvenile	34	31	36	23
Acquaintance	39	27	19	13
Bar Fight	8	4	4	2
Road Rage	15	7	5	4
Random/Stranger	11	9	2	5
Retail/Patron	4	8	6	8
Workplace	5	15	6	3
On Police Officer	11	3	6	8
Other/Unknown	6	3	10	7
TOTAL	192	166	167	148

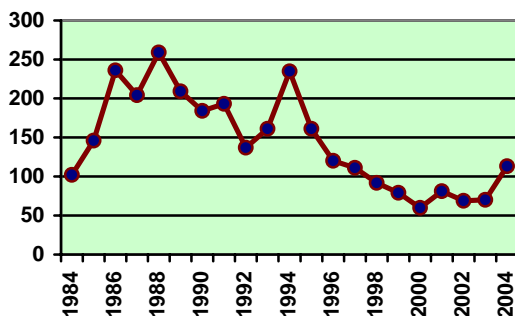
Domestic simple assaults returned to normal levels following a high 2003.

Burglary

Burglary: *The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft.*

Average of 71 • 113 in 2004 • 59% Increase

Burglary, 1984–2004



Both residential burglary (62 incidents) and commercial burglary (51 incidents) increased significantly in 2004, particularly in the fall. Danvers Police were faced with three burglary patterns between September and December:

1. A series of 12 burglaries struck downtown businesses in September and October. The burglar entered at nighttime through rear doors, favoring hair and beauty establishments. He targeted money in cash registers and often didn't get any; his total "take" in a dozen breaks was less than \$400.
2. Immediately after the downtown business pattern, nine burglaries (including five at the same location) struck gas stations on High Street and Holten Street. The *modus operandi* was similar to the downtown business burglaries, and it may have been the same burglar changing his favored target. As before, he was unsuccessful, netting less than

\$300 in the whole series. As of March 25, 2005, no suspects have been charged with either of these commercial burglary series, but the cases are still under active investigation.

3. Three residences on Water Street reported burglaries in a three-day period in November. A pair of juveniles were suspected, and the incidents ended once officers spoke to them, but there wasn't enough evidence to charge.
4. Eight housebreaks were reported at houses in the Back Bay area (east of Danvers Square) in November and December. The burglar targeted video games and video game systems. A 19-year-old Beverly man was caught in the act in December and arrested.

The map on the following page shows a large cluster of housebreaks within a half mile of Danvers Square; this is often a hot spot because of 1) the high concentration of multi-family housing, which is usually more attractive to thieves; 2) the proximity of commercial areas—burglars hanging around these areas aren't as "suspicious" as they would be in an all-residential neighborhood; and 3) the proximity to major roads in and out of town.

What is less common is the large number of commercial burglaries in the same area—these are a product of Patterns #1 and #2 above. Another string of housebreaks can be seen along Water Street, including Pattern #4 above and some unrelated family-related burglaries earlier in the year.

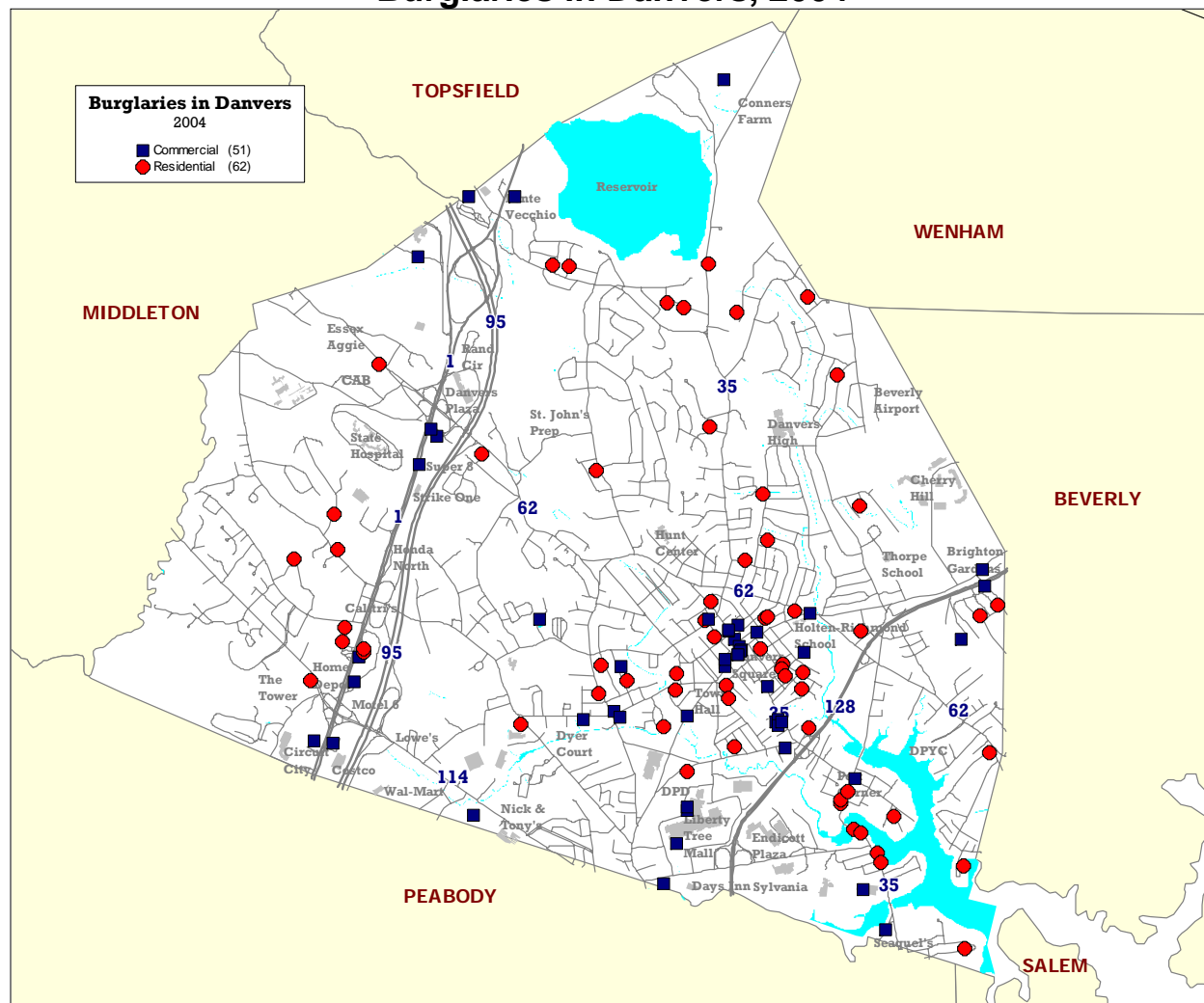
Housebreaks are usually a daytime phenomenon: over the past three years, 72% of housebreaks have occurred between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Commercial breaks, for obvious reasons, almost always occur at night: 84% are between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Those that don't occur at night invariably occur on weekends at closed businesses.

Most house burglars look for cash (25 in 2004) and jewelry (22); the latter they often pawn at shops in Salem and Lynn (the Danvers Police closely monitor out-of-town pawn activity). Medications are also often targeted by addicts, and in 2004, we saw an increasing trend of video games and video game systems stolen. In 17 of the 62 incidents, the victim knew the burglar. In none of the non-acquaintance burglaries did a victim come to harm.

Unfortunately, many Danvers residents routinely leave their doors and windows unlocked: 25 burglaries occurred through an open door or window. Another 16 were committed by forcing a door, the standard door locks being insufficient to hold up to much force. In most commercial burglaries, entry was made or attempted by prying or forcing a door.

30 (75%), from Danvers (43%), Lynn (11%), Beverly (10%), or Peabody (10%).

Burglaries in Danvers, 2004



Larcenies from Motor Vehicles

Larceny from Motor Vehicle: Theft of property from an automobile or truck. Sometimes the car is unlocked; sometimes the thief breaks into the car; sometimes the thief steals parts of the car (such as tires) on the exterior.

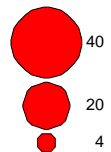
Average of 268 • 235 in 2004 • 12% Decrease

Several years of increases in this crime led to a peak in 2002 and then a sharp drop in 2003 in 2004. It still remains one of the most common crimes in Danvers, and it is the most frequent crime to display patterns and series. As most larcenies from motor vehicles occur in commercial parking lots, this crime has paced the commercial growth in town.

There are occasional patterns of nighttime thefts from cars parked in residential streets, but most incidents occur in the town's major commercial areas at the Liberty Tree Mall, on Route 114, and on Route 1. A map on the next page identifies and explains several "hot spots." With a few exceptions, incidents are primarily concentrated in the evenings between 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m., when people are most likely to visit these locations.

Locking a car does little to deter thieves: most thefts are committed by simply smashing a window or prying a door lock. The only real deterrent to these thefts is to avoid leaving anything of value inside a car. Common targets include cellular telephones, purses and wallets, cash and credit cards, briefcases and backpacks, laptop computers, CDs, and car stereos.

Thefts from Cars by Location 2004



Sprees of thefts occasionally strike the **Strike One** parking lot, usually in the late afternoon or early evening, with three or four cars hit on a single day.

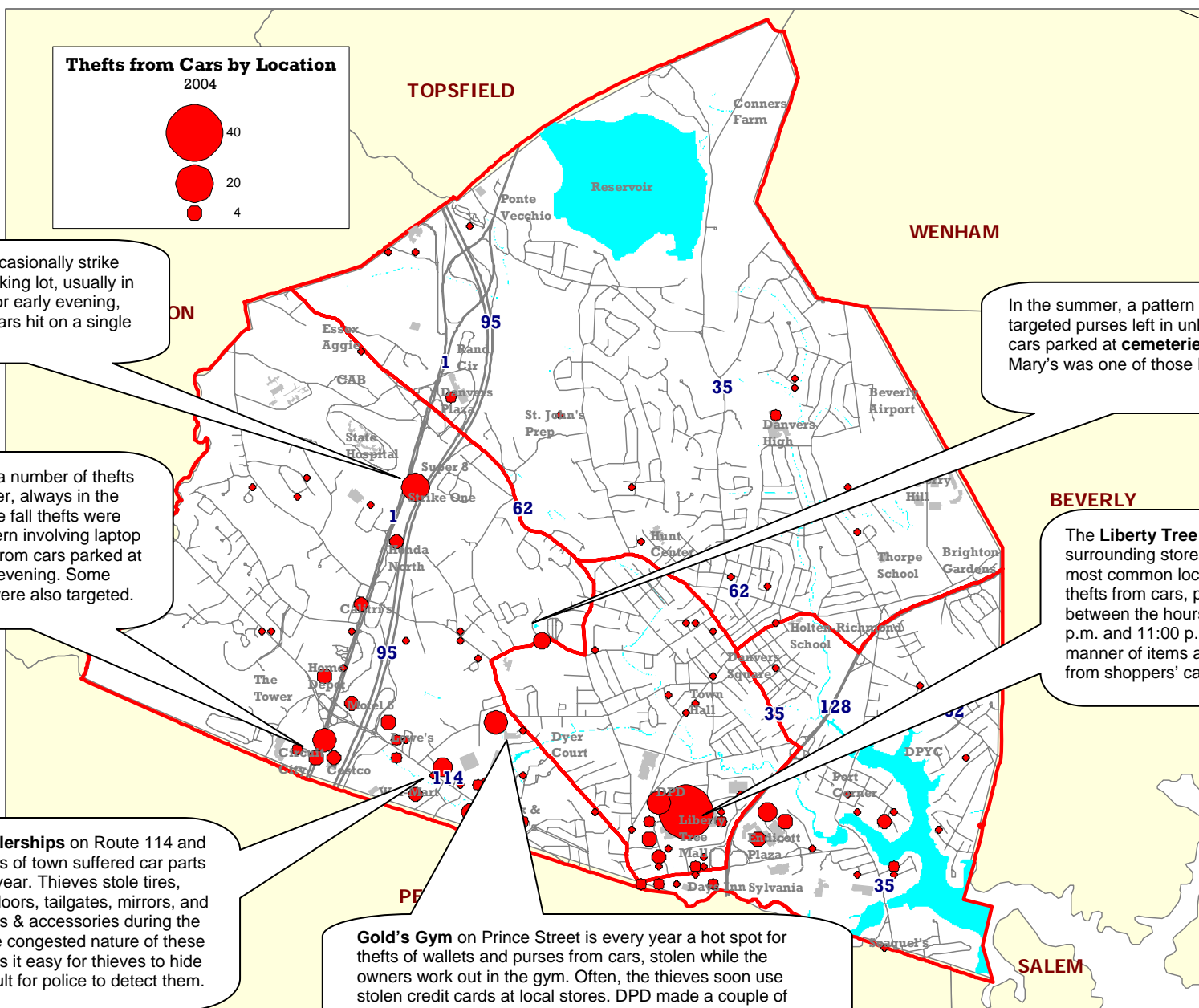
TGI Friday's had a number of thefts in April and October, always in the evening hours. The fall thefts were part of a brief pattern involving laptop computers stolen from cars parked at restaurants in the evening. Some locations on 114 were also targeted.

Auto dealerships on Route 114 and other parts of town suffered car parts thefts all year. Thieves stole tires, stereos, doors, tailgates, mirrors, and other parts & accessories during the night. The congested nature of these lots makes it easy for thieves to hide and difficult for police to detect them.

Gold's Gym on Prince Street is every year a hot spot for thefts of wallets and purses from cars, stolen while the owners work out in the gym. Often, the thieves soon use stolen credit cards at local stores. DPD made a couple of arrests in 2003; the thefts decreased but did not stop.

In the summer, a pattern of thefts targeted purses left in unlocked cars parked at **cemeteries**. St Mary's was one of those locations.

The **Liberty Tree Mall** and surrounding stores is the most common location for thefts from cars, particularly between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. All manner of items are stolen from shoppers' cars.



Thefts of car parts—including tires, doors, panels, and airbags—is confined primarily to auto dealerships along Route 114 and Route 1. See Page 18 for a discussion of this problem.

A review of the 128 individuals arrested or suspected of larceny from a motor vehicle since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (88%), under the age of 25 (71%), and from Danvers (26%), Peabody (18%), or Lynn (13%).

Shoplifting

Shoplifting: *Theft of merchandise from a retail establishment by a customer.*

Average of 221 • 332 in 2004 • 50% Increase

Like larcenies from motor vehicles, shoplifting has increased dramatically as a consequence of the commercial development of Danvers.

Any analysis of shoplifting must begin with the caveat that our statistics only reflect a small portion of what actually occurs. Unlike other larceny crimes, if no one sees or catches a shoplifter, the crime is likely to go undetected and unreported. The numbers given above are only incidents that we *know* about. A conservative estimate (based on studies conducted in other jurisdictions) is that the actual number of shopliftings is four or five times the number we record.

Because having a report of shoplifting usually depends on someone witnessing or catching the thief, stores with aggressive security forces—and policies that require them to prosecute shoplifters—report a high number of incidents. Some Danvers stores report no shoplifting incidents from year to year because employees handle the incidents internally and don't involve the police. All in all, the lack of data makes shoplifting a difficult crime to analyze and address.

Locations with the Most 2004 Shoplifting Reports

Kohl's	50 Independence Way	82
Wal-Mart	55 Brooksby Village	53
Home Depot	92 Newbury St	34
Target	240 Independence Way	18
Best Buy	230 Independence Way	17
Stop & Shop	5 Independence Way	15
Costco	11 Newbury St	12
Stop & Shop	301 Newbury St	11
Marshalls	100 Independence Way	6
Boater's World	35 Independence Way	6

As an example, Kohl's rocketed to the top of the list in 2004 after only reporting 11 incidents in 2003. Why? Because a dynamo loss prevention officer caught one shoplifter after another throughout the

year. She was promoted later in the year, and thefts have gone down 60% in 2005.

A review of the 1,306 individuals arrested or suspected of shoplifting since 1998 shows that they are most likely to be males (62%), under the age of 25 (64%), from Lynn (22%), Peabody (10%), Danvers (9%), or Salem (8%). In 2004, we saw an increase in shoplifters coming from Gloucester. Shoplifting is one of the few crimes where most of the individuals suspect or arrested do not come from Danvers itself.

Though it's hard to get exact numbers on the trend, we're seeing an increasing number of high-risk/high-reward incidents in which shoplifters fill a cart full of merchandise (totaling thousands of dollars) and brazenly wheel it out the door. Video game thefts also increased in the last two months of 2004, as more local stores began offering cash for used games.

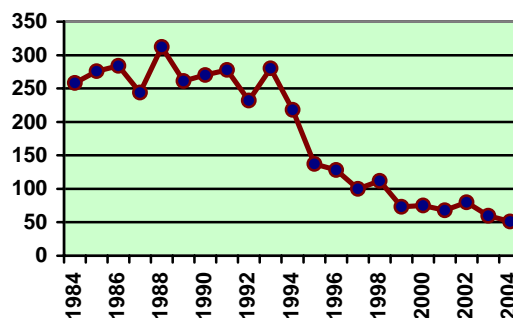
Auto Theft

Auto Theft: *The theft of a self-propelled motor vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails—including automobiles, buses, recreational vehicles, trucks, motorcycles, and mopeds.*

Average of 71 • 51 in 2004 • 28% Decrease

The continued decline in auto theft represents one of the best pieces of news in this report. The 2004 total was the lowest in more than 30 years. Advances in automobile security and the systematic destruction of "chop shops" brought this crime to its knees during the first half of the 1990s—all over the United States, and particularly in the northeast.

Auto Theft, 1984–2004

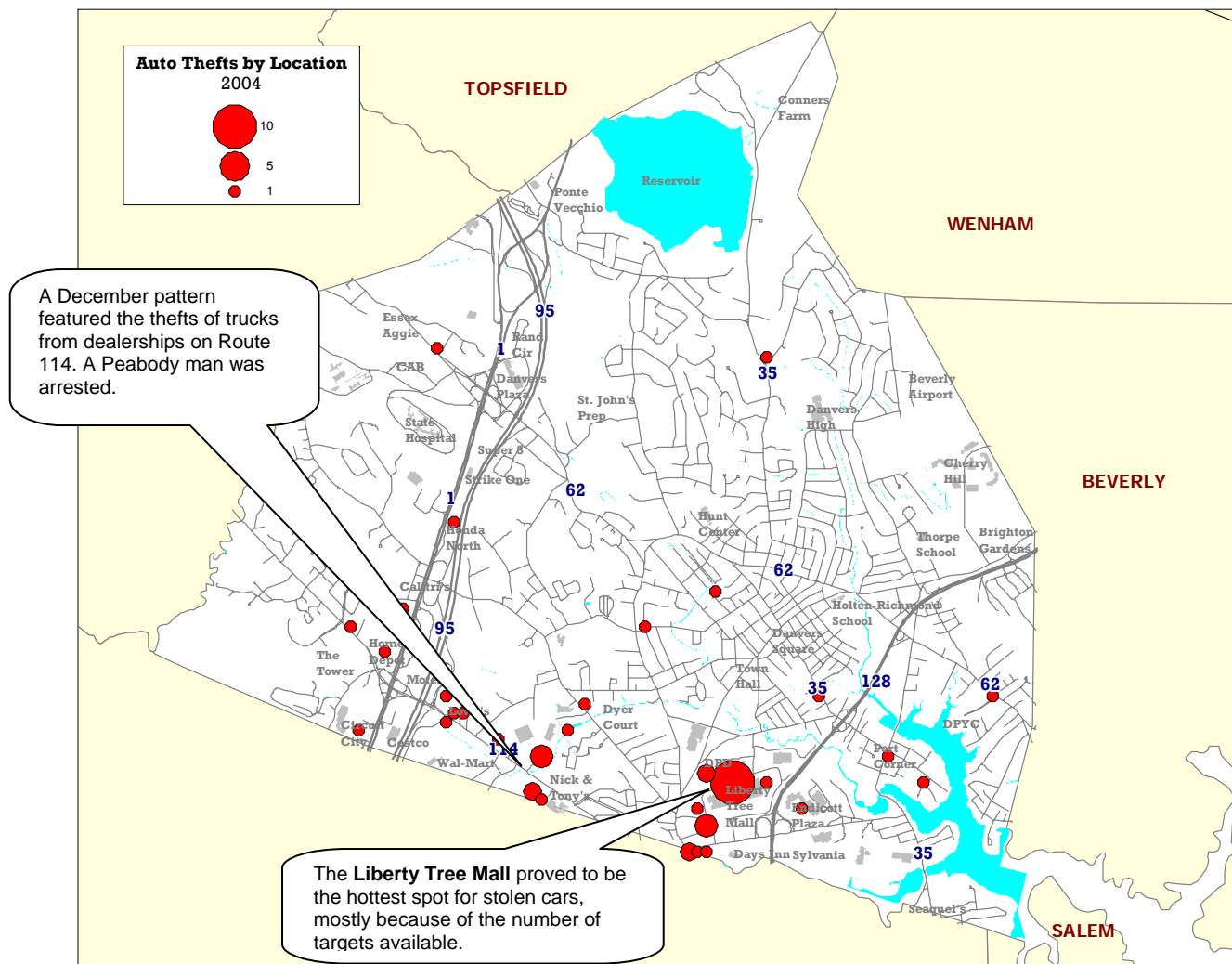


31% of the cars stolen in 2004 were taken from the Liberty Tree Mall parking lot. There were a few on Route 114 at auto dealerships, particularly in December, when a pattern of thefts resulted in the arrest of a Peabody man in January. The rest were scattered about town.

76% of the cars stolen in Danvers in 2004 have since been recovered. This figure is lower than previous years, when more than 80% were recovered. The cities and towns supplying the most recoveries during the past three years are:

Peabody	13
Lynn	11
Danvers	9
Boston	6
Lawrence	6
Salem	5

Danvers Police recovered only 17 stolen cars in 2004, far lower than the average of 37. Only three of them were stolen from Danvers itself. Recoveries often occur at the same time a theft is reported, and jurisdictions often “trade” thefts. For instance, a woman reports her car stolen from the Liberty Tree Mall. An officer responds and takes a report. A few spaces away, he discovers a car reported stolen the previous day from Lawrence. The next day, the Danvers woman’s car is recovered in Lawrence.



Vandalism

Vandalism: The intentional destruction or defacement of property. Such property might include houses, businesses, automobiles, public streets and signs, trees and flora, and personal property like cell phones and furniture. Types of destruction can include smashing, graffiti, egging, and disabling normal operation.

Average of 351 • 232 in 2004 • 34% Decrease

After a high total in 2003 (370), vandalism plummeted in 2004 for no identifiable reason. There were no patterns; only occasional problems at single residences.

Vandalisms in 2004 included 140 incidents of damage to automobiles, 38 incidents of damage to residences, 32 to businesses, and 14 to public buildings or property. The most common situational types were:

- Windows smashed on automobiles (usually in commercial parking lots): 53 incidents
- Automobiles scratched or keyed (24)
- Automobiles dented (17)
- Tires slashed on automobiles (12)
- Windows smashed at residences (12)

A review of 533 individuals arrested or suspected in vandalism incidents over the past six years shows that they are overwhelmingly male (85%), and teenagers (71%), and from Danvers (50%) or a surrounding town (28%). Vandalism in Danvers is very much an issue involving local youths, usually in groups, with either a careless disregard for other people's property, or a willful desire to cause mischief.

Fraud & Forgery

Fraud & Forgery: A category that describes thefts committed through duplicitous or fraudulent means. It includes unlawful use of a credit card, ATM card, or check; con games and swindles; counterfeiting; and identity theft.

Average of 100 • 138 in 2003 • 38% Increase

Fraud continues to increase in Danvers every year and is expected to top 200 per year by 2009. See the analysis on Page 19 for a full discussion of the fraud increase. Listed below are some of the most common situational types involved in fraud.

Bad Checks include checks written on closed accounts or accounts with insufficient funds. This crime is becoming rarer as more stores check the accounts before processing payment.

Forged Checks involve checks that are stolen and later forged at banks or stores. Very often, the offender is related to the victim: a disturbing trend of teenagers stealing checks from their parents and forging them (often to support a drug habit) is emerging. In many other cases, the forged checks are stolen (along with purses) from cars.



Credit Card and ATM Card Fraud has increased steadily. Usually this involves credit cards stolen in other jurisdictions, used at Danvers stores. In the past two years, Best Buy, Stop & Shop, Home Depot, CompUSA, Wal-Mart, and Lowe's have been the hottest spots for credit card forgery, though an increasing number are occurring over the Internet.

Many of these crimes could be prevented through better store security policies that require clerks to ask for a photo ID before accepting the credit card.

Con Games reel in 10–20 victims every year. Here are some of the repeat scenarios we've seen lately:

- **Solicitation Scams:** the victim receives a call or a home visit from someone collecting for a charity or police fund. The victim gives cash or a personal check that simply goes into the solicitor's pocket. Insist on giving charitable donations only through the mail. Check up on charities that mail solicitations to you.
- **Nigerian Gold:** the victim receives a letter, fax, or e-mail from a government or corporate official in some African nation, usually Nigeria. The letter says that the sender has millions in gold or cash that he needs to "get out of the country." He offers the victim a percentage of the money if the victim will allow the sender to funnel the money to his or her bank account in the United States. If the victim agrees to the initial proposal, he or she is eventually asked to put up some money for "routing fees" or some other such nonsense. Some victims have lost tens of thousands in this scam.
- **Lottery Scams:** a classic "send money to get money" scenario. Victims are told they've won thousands or millions in some lottery (usually in a foreign country), but they need to send a "processing fee" to claim it or "pay taxes up front." Remember: if you have to send money to get money, it's a scam.

- **Contractor Cons:** a very old con in which a team of men offer to do work on the victim's house (often re-paving the driveway) for a low price, then either do the work with sub-standard materials, or just take the money and leave.
- **Cash Shuffle:** a fast-talking swindler enters a retail store and looks for a young or inexperienced cashier. The con man asks for change for, say, a \$20 bill. By distracting the victim with a constant stream of chatter, "changing his mind" about the denominations he wants, handing bills back and forth, confusing the cashier about whose money is whose, and so on, the con artist manages to walk out of the store with two to five times the amount he entered with—leaving the slightly dumfounded cashier thinking he has only "made change." We had a pattern of such incidents around Endicott Street in the fall of 2004.
- **Big Carrot:** An elaborate scam in which the con man contacts his victim's place of business and claims to have a brother or friend who works at a retail store (in Danvers, it's usually Best Buy) and can offer the victim a laptop computer or other expensive item at a great price. The victim meets the swindler at the retail store and hands over thousands in cash in exchange for a phony store receipt. The victim is then told to wait or to go to the receiving area to pick up the merchandise. The swindler disappears and is never seen by the victim again. Danvers last saw this scam in 2002, though other towns with malls have experienced it as recently as February 2005.
- **Utility Impostors:** a group of con men show up at a victim's home and claim to be from the electric, gas, water, or cable company. They con their way into the victim's house, where one distracts the victim while another prowls the house for valuables.

Counterfeiting remains a sporadic phenomenon, subject to occasional patterns. They typically turn up in store registers with no indication of who passed them.

Identity Theft has become a national concern, particularly with the proliferation of personal information on the Internet. Local police agencies often do not receive reports of identity theft because incidents cross state and even national boundaries.

How does someone steal your identity? Usually, all it takes is your name, date of birth, and social security number, which the identity thief can glom from multiple sources: your driver's license, your

loan, credit card, or mortgage applications; information you give over the Internet; even your garbage. (Many incidents of identity theft are committed by someone the victim knows.) Armed with this information, the thief assumes your identity and applies for credit cards, car loans, and mortgages; orders products you can't pay for; steals from your checking or savings account; obtains professional licenses, drivers' licenses, and other identifications in your name; submits fake medical bills to private insurers; and otherwise makes a mess of your life and finances. If he is an all-around criminal, he may use your identification in his criminal enterprises. Eventually, a warrant may be issued with *your* name on it.

The damage can range from minor (you have to cancel some credit cards) to moderate (your credit report is ruined and you spend months straightening out your finances) to extremely serious (you get pulled over for speeding and suddenly find yourself in jail on a warrant for dealing cocaine in Miami). Most reports made to the Danvers Police have thusfar been minor—usually involving credit card applications. Regular credit report checks can catch identity theft before any serious damage is done.

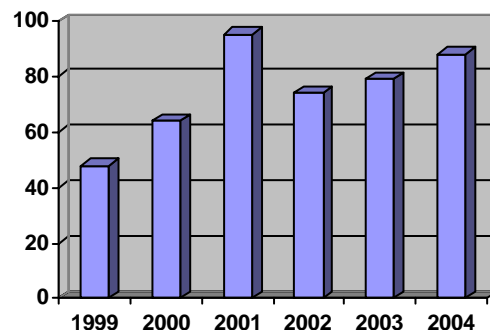
Drug Offenses

Drug Offenses: *Illegal possession, sale, manufacturing, or trafficking of illegal substances, including heroin, cocaine, hallucinogens, and marijuana. It also includes the illegal possession of prescription drugs. Most "incidents" categorized as "drugs" are arrests.*

Average of 72 • 88 in 2004 • 22% Increase

Although 2001 was the peak in drug offense activity in Danvers, the overall trend has been a steady increase for at least six years.

Drug Offenses in Danvers



Almost all drug *incidents* in Danvers are *arrests*. Obviously, the actual number of incidents in which someone uses, possesses, sells, or manufactures an illegal drug is much higher than our statistics indicate: we only know about such incidents when we catch someone. Consequently, it's hard to know whether our "increase" represents a real increase in drug activity, or whether we're just catching more offenders.

See Page 16 for a more detailed review of this increasing problem.

Drunk Driving

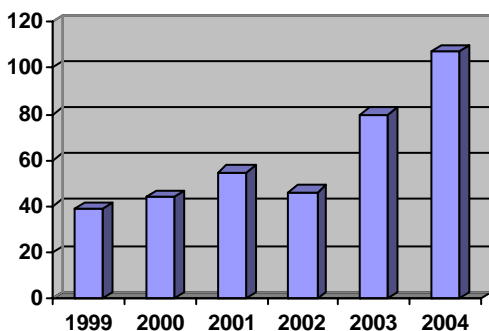
Average of 53 • 107 in 2004 • 102% Increase

Arrests for Operating Under the Influence, or drunk driving, shot up by 74% in 2003 and 102% in 2004. The 2004 total is the highest we've reported in at least seven years.

The cause of the increase seems to be twofold:

- 1) More pro-active officer activity. On example: a single officer, who joined the Danvers Police Department early in 2003, was responsible for 30% of the arrests in 2003 and 2004. This officer was given an award from MADD in early 2005.
- 2) More drunk driving. Given that incidents of drunkenness and liquor law violations are also up, it's possible that more alcohol abuse is occurring now than in previous years.

Drunk Driving in Danvers



At least 30 motor vehicle accidents in Danvers in 2004 were caused by drunk drivers. Fortunately, none of them were fatal for the participants (though eight involved injuries), but if this trend continues, our good luck won't last.

Noise Complaints

Average of 478 • 441 in 2004 • 8% Decrease

Noise complaints in 2003 and 2004 have been unusually low given the increased construction and traffic in town. There were only a few hot spots in the past year:

- There were 24 nighttime complaints of barking guard dogs at the **Portside Marina** on Liberty Street throughout the year. The guard dogs had been employed to reduce thefts from boats—a problem at other marinas—but nearby residents were being kept awake. Officers have worked with the owner to reduce this problem, and it has diminished dramatically in 2005.
- Residents living near **Home Depot** on Route 1 complained 18 times throughout the year of loud trucks, forklifts, and other loud nighttime work. This has been an ongoing problem at this location. There was an identical problem at **Lowe's** on Route 114, with 11 complaints.
- There were a dozen nighttime complaints of loud music at the **Polish Club** on Cheever Street, most between September and December.
- One apartment building on **High Street** racked up seven "loud party" calls during the year.
- There were seven loud noise (mostly music) complaints at a trailer park on Route 1, most in September.

Danvers Police Web Site

Get up-to-date crime and police information at:

<http://www.danverspolice.com>

On our web site, you can:

- Review recent crime bulletins and reports
- See registered sex offenders
- Request traffic enforcement on your street
- View crime prevention tips
- Register for the next Citizen Police Academy
- Report suspicious activity
- Download collision & other forms
- Get information on policies & procedures
- View current contact information
- **New:** Report a crime online!

How Do I...

Report a Crime in Progress or Other Emergency?

Dial 9-1-1 from the nearest telephone.

Report a Past Crime or Other Activity of Concern?

Call 978-774-1212, come to the Danvers Police station in person, or report it online at

<http://www.danverspolice.com/reportacrime>

Find Out About Crime & Safety Information in My Area?

Call or e-mail the Office of Public Safety Analysis at 978-774-1213 ext. 119 or **cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org**. You may also view current crime bulletins and reports at

<http://www.danverspolice.com/analysis.html>.

Get a Copy of a Crime or Collision Report?

The rules about who can obtain what types of crime reports can be complex. Call the Records Section at 978-774-1213, ext. 118 to discuss the situation with a Records Section employee. Collision reports should always be requested by your lawyer or insurance company.

Learn More About Restraining Orders or Obtain a Restraining Order?

You can get a restraining order against a spouse or ex-spouse, a relative, a current or ex- boyfriend or girlfriend, or someone living with you, if that person has abused you with violence or threats. Depending on your situation, the restraining order may order the abuser to stop abusing or hurting you, to stay away from you, your home, work, or school, or vacate a home that you share together. The Danvers Police Department can help you obtain a restraining order if you are in an abusive situation. For more information, call the Danvers Police at 978-774-1212, come to the Police station in person, or e-mail **dwoytovich@mail.danvers-ma.org**. Of course, call 9-1-1 to report any immediate violence or abuse.

Get a Police Officer to Come to a Community Event?

Call or e-mail Lt. David Woytovich at 978-774-1213 ext. 126 or **dwoytovich@mail.danvers-ma.org**.

Get Tips on Protecting Myself and My Home?

Aside from the tips gleaned from this report, the Danvers Police Department offers crime prevention tips on our web site (**<http://www.danverspolice.com>**). We will be happy to mail or e-mail you this material if you contact the Office of Public Safety Analysis at 978-774-1213 ext. 119 or **cbruce@mail.danvers-ma.org**. We are also pleased to offer a Residential Security Survey program—a crime prevention officer will look over your house and recommend strategies to make it safer. Call Lt. Woytovich at 978-774-1213 ext. 126 to set one up.

Contact Information

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